

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

/069 W

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R 081654Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4751

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: PAPAL NUNCIO DENIES VATICAN HAS RECALLED HIM

1. PIO LONGI, THE PAPAL NUNCIO, HAS DENIED REPORTS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS IN RECENT DAYS THAT VATICAN HAS RECALLED HIM TO ROME BECAUSE OF GOA DISPLEASURE OVER ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS. THE NUNCIO, WHO ENJOYS ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOA, ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING ALL SUCH REPORTS WERE BASELESS.

2. AT CLOSING OF PERONIST PARTY CONGRESS ON MAR 6, MRS PERON USED INCIDENT TO UNDERScore HER DISPLEASURE WITH "TERRORIST PRESS" NOTING THAT "EVEN HIS EXCELLENCY THE NUNCIO HAD HAD TO DEFEND HIMSELF FROM THEIR UNPRINCIPLED ATTACKS."

3. COMMENT. WHILE IT LIKELY THAT FORCES OPPOSED TO MRS. PERON WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NUNCIO REMOVED, HE OBVIOUSLY STILL HAS MRS. PERON'S CONFIDENCE. FURTHER, HE HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT REP OF THE VATICAN AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THEY WOULD WISH SEE HIM REMOVED AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. A FUTURE MILITARY GOVT, HOWEVER, MIGHT WELL AS SOON SEE HIM TRANSFERRED.

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NNN

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